



STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
Monday, September 16, 2019
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Heather Chapman, Chair
Kara Aanenson
Kirsten Andersen
Michelle Becote-Jackson
Marone Brown
Annie Hansen-Combs
Sgt. Kathy Estrada
Elizabeth "Liz" Park
Lynette Holmes (phone)
Heidi Rochon
Melanie Shapiro
Dr. Jonathan Shepherd
Kimberly Sauer (phone)

Guests:

Jeffrey Breslin, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore
Timmeka Perkins, Anne Arundel County Police Department
Dr. Shameka Stanford, Howard University
Lt. Steve Thomas, Anne Arundel County Police Department

Staff:

Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office for Children
Christine Drushel-Williams, Governor's Office for Children
Christopher Miele, Governor's Office for Children
William Jernigan, Governor's Office for Children

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes

Consideration of the July 8, 2019 minutes was tabled because a quorum was not present.

III. Member Recognition

Ms. Chapman presented a Governor's Citation to Michelle Becote-Jackson and thanked her for her contributions to the SAG. Ms. Becote-Jackson, whose term expired on June 30, 2019, had been a member of the SAG since 2013 and served as Vice Chair since 2015. She has also led the Grant Monitoring Subcommittee for the past several years and has represented the State Advisory Group at many national events.

IV. Presentation - Anne Arundel County Police Department

Timmeka Perkins and Lt. Steve Thomas of the Anne Arundel County Police Department presented on the Department's Juvenile Justice Prevention and Diversion Initiatives. For the last three years, the Department has adopted a multifaceted approach to diverting youth away from the justice system by incorporating restorative justice elements and Department-wide crisis intervention training.

Lt. Thomas informed the group that the primary goal of the Department's prevention efforts is to divert individuals away from the justice system and toward the behavioral health system. Prevention components include crisis response training for all sworn officers, four full-time crisis response officers, pairing clinicians with officers, Handle With Care, service linkages and follow-up, and specialized handling of elementary / middle school calls for service. Outcomes include reductions to both use of force rates and recidivism.

Ms. Perkins provided members with an overview of the diversion options that are available before and after arrest. Programs include the Anne Arundel County Teen Court and the Juvenile Offenders in Need of Supervision (JOINS) program. While both programs are firmly rooted in the restorative justice model, Anne Arundel's Teen Court focuses on community safety and accountability elements and the JOINS program emphasizes competency development.

Both programs aim to provide 'meaningful diversion' to offenders, by working to determine what is leading youth to the justice system, providing significant intervention attempts, goal setting, and assisting youth to build the necessary capacity to avoid future violations of the law. A specific intention to reduce implicit bias and ensuring fairness in referral practices is achieved by conducting universal screening for all eligible first offenses. With a data-driven commitment to improving outcomes, Ms. Perkins and Lt. Thomas shared that Teen Court outcomes include a 10% recidivism rate, and the JOINS program boasts a 2% recidivism rate.

V. Subcommittee Reports

a. Recruitment, Training, and Regionalization

Jeffrey Breslin, President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Baltimore, and Dr. Shameka Stanford, a professor at Howard University, introduced themselves to the group. Both are pending appointment. Meredith Miller was appointed, and Derrell Frazier and Diana Barney are also pending appointment.

Ms. Wheeler reminded the group that the public special education seat remains vacant. Candidates must possess knowledge, training, experience and work for a public agency, however; current employment as a special educator is not required. While specific roles within the SAG are required per federal regulation, an effort to build out SAG membership to incorporate additional representation from our resource dense State could be beneficial.

b. Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)

Mr. Jernigan proposed the development of a Diversion/RED toolkit. The purpose of the RED/Diversion toolkit would be to develop a replicable model to provide to stakeholders in Maryland and even beyond to enhance and improve diversion programming and increase RED reduction efforts. This toolkit will be developed by Maryland's RED Subcommittee with support from the Coalition for Juvenile Justice and other stakeholders.

Additionally, Mr. Jernigan informed the group of his recent meeting with Ms. Jennifer Gray of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. The focus of their meeting was to explore opportunities to engage faith-based organizations into RED reduction efforts. From this meeting, the idea of providing a RED summit for faith-based entities was explored. Ms. Gray and Mr. Jernigan are to have a follow-up meeting in the near future to further discuss this potential event.

Finally, Mr. Jernigan offered to provide RED training to stakeholders and he requested the support of SAG members to identify organizations that would benefit from a training in the future.

c. Emerging Leaders

Ms. Wheeler informed the group that Ms. Drushel-Williams will be working with the subcommittee to incorporate a youth driven approach.

d. *Grant Monitoring*

Ms. Rochon summarized the role of the Grant Monitoring subcommittee, and provided an overview of the subcommittee's status. On October 11, 2019 the subcommittee will complete a site visit to the Education Stability Initiative at the Public Justice Center in Baltimore City. The subcommittee is working to arrange a grantee presentation for the November SAG meeting, and will share site visit findings during that meeting as well. SAG members are welcomed and encouraged to attend site visits and should reach out to Chris Miele at christopher.miele1@maryland.gov for more information.

VI. Coalition for Juvenile Justice Updates

Ms. Gabby Nixdorf of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice provided members with a list of upcoming webinars and training opportunities hosted by the Coalition, including:

- Understanding the JJDP: Enhancing System Partnerships for Successful Educational Reentry, October 23 at 3:00 p.m.
- Ensuring Equity: LGBTQ/GNCT Youth and the Juvenile Justice System, November 13 at 3:00 p.m.

VII. SAG Planning

Ms. Chapman expressed her vision for the SAG to not only populate and operate a robust RED subcommittee, but to ensure a deliberate and intentional RED lens through which all SAG efforts must pass. She also asked members to think about how the SAG can serve as a RED connector within the State? The idea of a "RED Summit" in 2020 was discussed among members. Mr. Jernigan will coordinate with the RED committee to explore this idea.

Members also discussed creating a feedback loop between the SAG and its grantees. Ms. Chapman and Ms. Wheeler shared ideas on areas for the SAG to explore over the next year including implementation of youth advisory committees, the State's compulsory education mandate, and addressing youth homelessness and substance abuse treatment services. Ms. Chapman remarked on the ability of members to convene outside of SAG meetings, and proposed a review of SAG meeting time. It was suggested that meeting agendas can shift to allow the subcommittees time to meet and work on specific targets. Members voiced no objection to reshaping the meeting agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Chapman adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2019.